

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A venous cannula, comprising:
a body having a proximal end and a distal end, the body having a wall defining a lumen extending from the proximal end to the distal end, the lumen having a longitudinal axis; the body being sized and shaped to afford placement of the cannula in a portion of the venous system of a patient; and
a plurality of apertures in the wall interconnected with the lumen, wherein each of the apertures has a longer major axis and a shorter minor axis, and wherein the longer major axis is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lumen.
2. Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.
3. (Original) The cannula of claim 1, wherein the apertures are eye-shaped.
4. (Original) The cannula of claim 1, wherein the apertures are oval.
5. (Original) The cannula of claim 1, wherein the apertures are a shape defined by first and second arcuate portions that intersect with one another at two corners.
6. (Original) The cannula of claim 1, wherein the apertures are arranged into a plurality of rows generally extending along the longitudinal axis of the lumen.
7. (Original) The cannula of claim 6, wherein the rows are evenly distributed on the body and the apertures of adjacent rows are offset such that the apertures in the adjacent rows are different distances from a distal tip of the body.
8. (Amended) A venous cannula, comprising:
a body having a proximal end and a distal end, the body having a wall defining a lumen extending from the proximal end to the distal end, the lumen having a longitudinal axis; the body being sized and shaped to afford placement of the cannula in a portion of the venous system of a patient; and
a plurality of apertures in the wall, wherein the apertures are eye-shaped.
9. Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice.

10. (Original) The cannula of claim 8, wherein each of the apertures has a longer major axis and a shorter minor axis, and wherein the longer major axis is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lumen.

11. (Original) The cannula of claim 10, wherein the apertures are a shape defined by first and second arcuate portions that intersect with one another at two corners.

12. (Original) The cannula of claim 8, wherein the apertures are arranged into four rows generally extending along the longitudinal axis of the lumen.

13. (Original) The cannula of claim 12, wherein the rows are evenly distributed on the body and the apertures of adjacent rows are offset such that the apertures in the adjacent rows are different distances from a distal tip of the body.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of making a cannula, comprising the steps of:
forming a cannula body having a wall defining a lumen;
bending the cannula body in a first direction such that the cannula body has a concave side and a convex side;
punching an oval aperture into the concave side of the body; and
straightening the cannula body.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the wall is formed by extruding a plastic material.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the plastic material is polyurethane.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the body is formed by a dip molding process.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the cannula is a venous cannula.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the oval aperture has a longer major axis and a shorter minor axis, and wherein the longer major axis is perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lumen.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of punching a first row of oval apertures extending along the lumen into the concave side of the body before straightening the cannula body.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
bending the cannula body in a second direction such that a different portion of the wall forms the concave side of the body; and

punching a second row of oval apertures extending along the lumen in the concave side of the body.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second rows are offset such that each aperture is a different distance from a distal tip of the body.